

February 12th.—Since the last note, he continued to improve, the movements having gradually and considerably abated; the slightest excitement, however, greatly exaggerated the spasms. From this date he slowly improved, and the choreic movements gradually lessened; iron and quinine were given, all excitement was avoided, and rest was secured by means of chloral. He was discharged on March 22nd.

Whatever may be the exact nature of the connection which has long been admitted to subsist, in some cases, between rheumatism and chorea, this case is of interest as affording an unusually marked example of the sequence of those disorders. The chorea so closely followed the rheumatic phenomena, that we seem justified in inferring that at least there existed "a causal relation" between them.

COLUMN FOR THE CURIOUS.

LORD BROUGHAM ON COLD AFFUSIONS.—The following letter from Lord Brougham to Lord Grey, dated September 21st, 1813, is interesting.

"My dear Lord Grey,—I have just heard with the greatest concern of your having had the scarlet fever at Howick, and I am extremely anxious to hear that it has done no mischief.

"I know a good deal of that damnable disease, both from having had it twice myself, and from several of our family having had it in the worst possible shape. I have attended a good deal to the subject of cold affusion, and I beg of you to urge your medical men by all means to try it. They sometimes are afraid, but vaccination is not more demonstrably certain. Romilly's eldest daughter was saved by it. My sister I saw literally restored to life by it. She had been given over, and was thought to be actually gone, when the medical man ordered cold air to be let in upon her. This was long before the practice had become common; in Romilly's case it was by the more powerful application of cold water, applied again and again all over the body, till it brought down the pulse and heat.

"Pray give my best remembrance to Lady Grey, and believe me ever most sincerely yours,
H. BROUGHAM."

THE CAUSE OF CANCER.—"Il y en a qui croient que le cancer ulceré n'est autre chose qu'une multitude prodigieuse de petits vers qui dévorent et consomment peu-à-peu toute chair de la partie. Ce qui a donné lieu à cette opinion, c'est qu'avec le microscope on a quelquefois vu de ces insectes dans les cancer, et que mettant sur l'ulcère un morceau de veau, la malade sent moins de douleur, parce que, dit on, ces vers rongent pour lors ce veau, ils laissent la malade en repos pour quelque temps. Cette opinion a eû ses partisans et ses censeurs; je n'entreprendrai point ici de les accorder." (*Cours d'Operations de Chirurgie*, par M. Dionis. Sixieme edition, 1745.)

P. J. MOLONY, B.A., Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.

LITHOTOMY AND HYDROTHERAPEIA.—The following is an extract from an ancient Welsh manuscript entitled *Meddygon Myddfai*, written about A.D. 1300. It is curious, first, on account of the attempts to limit febrile action by frequent use of baths; secondly, on account of the droll directions given for putting the patient in position for operation. The *Cambrian Register* for 1796 is responsible for the translation.

"*Macn-Diolli (Lithotomy).* A hard stone, in this way shall relief be given, when it is extracted. Take a stick and place it in the bend of the patient's hams; and then place his two arms within his hams and turn them upwards round the stick, and tie a bandage round his two wrists and over his neck, and place him with his belly upwards, with something high under his hips, and from the left side of his privities extract the stone; and afterwards put the patient in a water bath that day, and the next morning in a water bath first, and after that in a confection bath; and from that lay him in his bed with his belly upward, and clean his wound, and apply lint with salt butter to it; and keep him in that state until it shall be known whether he will escape. He is to be left for a night and a day before performing this operation without meat and without drink, and to be put into a bath."

D. C. L. OWEN, Birmingham.

UNGUENTUM SYMPATHETICUM, OR SYMPATHETIC OINTMENT.—R Boars-grease, brains of a boar, powder of washed earth-worms, red sanders, mummy, blood-stone a. ʒj, moss of a dead mans skul not buried ʒj, make an ointment, s.a. All wounds are cured by this ointment (provided the nerves and arteries be not hurt) thus: Anoint the weapon that made the wound daily once, if there be need, and the wound be great; otherwise it will be sufficient to anoint it every other day. Where note, 1, that the weapon be kept in clean linnen, and in

a temperate heat, lest the patient be hurt; for if the dust fall, or wind blow upon it, or it be cold, the sick will be much tormented; 2. That if it be a stab, the weapon to be anointed towards the point descending; 3. If you want the weapon, take blood from the wound upon a stick, and use as if it were the weapon. Thus the toothache is cured by pricking the gums and anointing the instrument. It is to be noted that the chrystals of vitriol converted into a white powder by a gentle heat is that which is called the sympathetical powder, which cureth wounds by washing a bloody cloth in the water in which it is dissolved. (*Synopsis Medicinæ*, by William Salmon, London. 1671.)

FRANCIS BATEMAN, M.B.Lond., Whitchurch, Oxon.

UNDER the heading "Dolor Pedum in Parturientibus", at page 229 of an old book by Thomas Bartolini, dated 1661, we find the following words: "Propter uteri vincula ad crura protensa, non mirum est, si in gravidis crus doleat. Credunt maris esse signum, si crus dextrum, femina, si sinistrum doleat, quia dextre uteri parti maxime incubans foetus sexus potioris, detra uteri ligamenta extendit."

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

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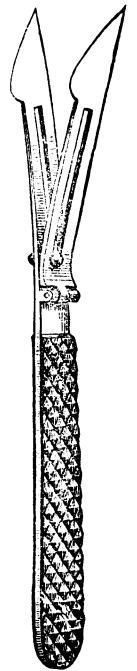
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

A NEW FORM OF VACCINATOR.

By P. M. BRAIDWOOD, M.D., Birkenhead.

I HAVE used the following form of vaccinator for nearly two years both at my public vaccination stations and in my private practice. I have tested fairly the three separate modes of vaccinating, as well as different vaccinating instruments, and I give the preference to this, because of the rapidity and painlessness with which one can vaccinate with it. This vaccinator (like the Danish vaccinator, or like a Valentin's knife) consists of two blades. In using it, the blades having been closely approximated, the instrument, held like a pen between the thumb and forefinger, is used first to puncture the vesicles, and thereon a portion of lymph flows between the blades as into a pen dipped in ink. A little more lymph is taken up by drawing the knife lightly over the surface of the vesicle. The skin of the arm being well stretched by grasping with the left hand, four small incisions are next made, the skin is relaxed, and a little lymph rubbed over the surface. When making the incisions, a certain portion of lymph is inserted, and this is embraced by relaxing the skin, while the additional lymph spread over the wounds makes the process doubly sure. I have found this method, by practical experience in hundreds of cases, to be as certain as any other—to be much more rapid and less painful. No blood need be drawn; and the four incisions—each half-an-inch long—yield four groups of beautiful vesicles. This mode of vaccinating is easily acquired; and will be found, I think, by those who give it a fair trial, to possess all the advantages I have described. The instrument is made by Messrs. Maw, Son, and Thompson, 12, Aldersgate Street, London; and they have attached to it a small slide, which, when drawn back, allows the blades to be fully separated, so that they can be thoroughly cleaned; while, when the slide is pushed forward, the blades are closely approximated. The knife is of the size represented in the accompanying drawing, and is fitted into a case so as to be carried in the vest-pocket.



CLINICAL THERMOMETERS.

MESSRS. MAW, Son, and Thompson, of Aldersgate Street, have forwarded for inspection the sets of clinical thermometers which they are now producing for medical use. The one case contains—1. An ordinary but very sensitive thermometer, made with a curve, in order that its bulb may be the more easily and perfectly fitted into the axilla, while the stem, being carried upwards, renders the reading *in situ* more easy; 2. A straight thermometer, which, being a maximum self-registering one (known as Phillip's maximum), does not require to be